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PARK CITY -- On the east side of Teske Boulevard, Republican Mark Kirk represents Park City in Washington. On the west side, it is Democrat Melissa Bean.

City officials say they don't care how many congressional boundaries cross their 1.1 square miles -- they need funds to muscle up their police services, and Mayor Steve Pannell said their municipal budget and state aid isn't cutting it.

"So we're going up to the federal level," Pannell said Thursday night, as he and Police Chief Walter Holderbaum prepared to take Kirk on a tour of the village's sore spots.

"We have a nice little quiet community. We're hoping you can help us keep it that way." Holderbaum told Kirk when the four-term congressman arrived at Park City's year-old municipal building, formerly the Croatian Cultural Center on Belvidere Road.

According to Holderbaum, his department responded to 695 calls from January through May in 2007. Through the final week of May 2008, that number was up to 1,815, an increase of more than 1,100.

Holderbaum pointed out that some of the increase can be credited to more accurate reporting procedures, but gangs and narcotics calls are also on the rise.

"We're not attributing it entirely to gangs, (but) we are seeing an increase in graffiti and in activity," Holderbaum said, adding that Park City's gang presence is "not in the magnitude of other communities, but we are starting to see it."

On a driving tour with Kirk, it was easy to see graffiti tagged on playground equipment at both

Richard Allen Park, which sits in the 8th District, and Betty Limbrunner Park, which is in the 10th District.

"This is Satan's Disciples right here," said Kirk, standing atop a picnic table to examine markings on the roof of a shelter.

"They tag up stuff and we clean it up as much as we possibly can," said Holderbaum, though he noted Park City only has two public works employees trying to keep pace with the vandalism.

The police department has similar manpower issues -- 10 full-time officers and six part-timers cover the entire community, and Pannell said one item on his wish list is "at least five more personnel."

On Thursday, the discussion was about technology. Holderbaum and Pannell told Kirk their officers could use in-car camera systems, updated computers and modern communication equipment that would allow direct contact with surrounding agencies.

One specific request was for surveillance cameras to be mounted at each city park. Holderbaum said the pods, which could be purchased for around \$36,000, provide a live, digitally taped feed to dispatchers, and he added that "people have a tendency to see those cameras and behave themselves."

"We want to do some preventative things," Holderbaum added, "(and) technology is the way to go. But, unfortunately, it's expensive."

Thursday's final stop was at Allen Park on the west side of the city, where more graffiti could be found on playground slides and even on trees.

"We found a guy out here last week with his head bashed in pretty good," Holderbaum said, walking toward the playground. "Of course, he wouldn't tell us what happened -- he's a known

gang member. But somebody jacked him up good."

After inspecting the scene, Pannell turned to Kirk. "Needless to say, we're begging for help."

"You made the case, man," Kirk said. "You are a heavily marked community."

Kirk asked Pannell to provide written information that can be entered before Congress goes on summer recess. City officials have also been in contact with Bean's office, and Kirk said Park City's unique boundaries shouldn't be an issue, because "Melissa and I work together a ton" on local issues.

This article was edited to comply with Franking Commission Guidelines